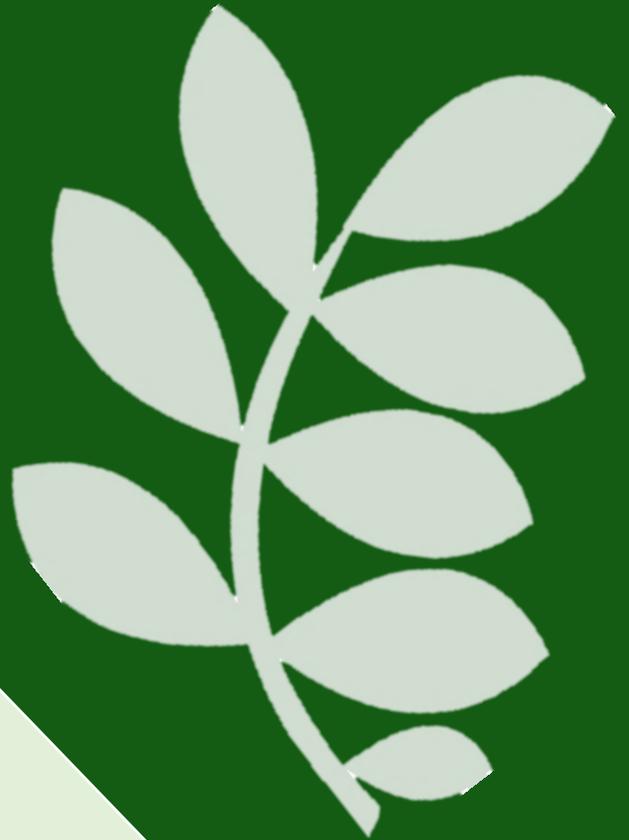




IPB
International
Peace Bureau

Newsletter

March 2017



IPB Co President Reiner Braun is from March 26 until April 4 on a trip across the United States. In circa 30 interviews, he has the opportunity to talk about NATO, European Militarization and the complicated relationship between Russia and the USA. He will also take part in the "Ban Treaty Negotiations" in New York.

Trump, military spending and Harry Belafonte

A great fighter for peace and freedom will be 90 today - the day of President Trump's first speech before the US Congress, on nationalism and the big man's wish-list!

Here is my first American report: I am touring the US for the next six weeks, at the invitation of Peace Action, the largest US peace network, and the American Friends Service Committee, the great 200-year-old pacifist organization (Quakers). Our talks will focus on NATO, EU militarization, Russia and nuclear weapons. All this from a peace movement perspective, against the mainstream press and the political elite on both sides of the Atlantic. I will also participate in the UN Ban Treaty negotiations in New York as an observer at the end of March. IPB will also conduct two "side events" at the UN at that time.

The other America (peaceful, democratic, freedom-loving and righteous) -- and not only the USA -- is celebrating the 90th birthday of the great peace and civil rights activist, Harry Belafonte. Together with Martin Luther King, he warned us many years before the arrival of Donald Trump of the danger of "Fascism in the USA". He was a great friend of the German peace movement (both East and West). I will never forget the night of his dress rehearsal at the "Artists for Peace" event on 11th September 1982 when, as a young employee of the Krefelder Appeal, I was standing next to him on the stage of the Ruhr Bochum Stadium, listening to his poignant and moving songs. Happy Birthday Harry and all the best !!!!

Listening or (better) watching, we witnessed the first speech by President Trump to the two houses of Congress. It was something like his government statement. We all need to analyze it closely.

Therefore here are only first impressions concentrating on the crucial peace questions:

Trump emphasized again the outstanding, unique significance of NATO in 'defending freedom'. All those who once believed he was NATO-critical should correct themselves quickly and not consider him in the resistance against NATO. The character of the Pentagon has not changed.

He underlined that he would make the military so strong that it can defeat "every enemy", underlining the budget upgrades of the past few days, \$54 billion extra per year, including the further modernization of nuclear weapons.

What is a little new, but already said recently in Munich: he demands not only more money (up to 2% of GDP each) from the European allies, but also more active war-making, especially in the Middle East, but also against China. This means dead soldiers from Germany and other allied states in Syria, Iraq, and in other interventions. This is the goal of the new burden-sharing; the intervention policy continues, now the others may die.

An interesting aspect of the speech was the infrastructure program, which he imagines as a private-public partnership: the state pays and the private sector will profit. Trump the builder!

The analysis must certainly also take into account the nationalist, patriotic climate and much more. For today these are only a few first aspects; my fellow American colleagues will say much more precisely. For us Europeans the conclusion remains: we demand disarmament, abolition of the atomic bomb and overcoming NATO - best achieved by leaving it.

For more insights from the speaker's tour visit: <http://ipb-office.berlin/reiners-blog-from-the-usa-march-2017-2/>

Radio interview With Kevin Martin & Reiner Braun: <http://ijpr.org/post/fearing-nuclear-war-all-over-again>

IPB Program – UN Ban Treaty Negotiations

27 - 31 March | New York

HOW TO SUCCESSFULLY DEVELOP AN INTERNATIONAL COALITION TOWARD THE ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS?

Wednesday , March 29 | 10am -1pm | NGO-room at the UN

Chair: Reiner Braun , IPB & Yayoi Tsuchida, Gensuikyo

- Involving Parliamentarians in the ban negotiations (Massimo Artini, MP, Italy)
- New threats on Nuclear Weapons in the US (Joseph Gerson, AFSC-US, USA)
- The responsibility of scientists (Jürgen Scheffran, INES, Germany)
- Japan’s contribution to mobilise public opinion (Hiroshi Taka, Gensuikyo, Japan)
- Building the momentum against nuclear weapons (Dave Webb, CND, UK)

Organised by Gensuikyo, IPB, Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung NYC and Peace&Planet

WHAT CONTENT SHOULD HAVE THE BAN TREATY TO BE EFFECTIVE?

Thursday, March 30 | 1–2.30pm | NGO-room at the UN

Chair: Amela Škiljan

- How can the ban treaty lead to nuclear weapons elimination? (John Burroughs, IALANA, USA)
- What core prohibitions should be addressed in the nuclear ban treaty? (Arielle Denis, IPB, France)
- What rules of procedure would make the ban treaty process both unblockable and inclusive? (Sergio Duarte, Pugwash, Brasil)
- The ICRC and a nuclear ban treaty (Lou Maresca, ICRC, USA)
- Would the ban treaty challenge the nuclear umbrella cooperation? (Susi Snyder, PAX/ICAN, Netherlands)

Organised by IPB, Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung NYC and Peace&Planet

LECTURE “US/EU MILITARISM AND THE RISK OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THE TRUMP ERA”

Monday, March 27 | 7pm | College of Staten Island

Speakers : Reiner Braun, IPB & Joseph Gerson, AFSC

LECTURE “BAN OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS”

Wednesday, March 29 | 7pm | New York Judson Church
Speakers : Reiner Braun, IPB & Joseph Gerson, AFSC

LECTURE “PEACE AND ACTIVISM IN THE ERA OF TRUMP, PUTIN AND NATO”

Thursday, March 30 | 7pm | Brooklyn Friends Meeting House

Speakers : Reiner Braun, IPB & Joseph Gerson, AFSC

Co-sponsors : Brooklyn for Peace, Peace and Social Action Committee of the Brooklyn Monthly Meeting (Quäker)

RECEPTION FOR EXCHANGING VIEWS ABOUT THE DISCUSSIONS

Friday, March 31 | 5-7pm | All Souls Church, 1157 Lexington Avenue

Open to everybody ! Organised by IPB, Peace&Planet, AFSC and Peace Action

EXPECTATIONS FROM THE BAN TRATY NEGOTIATIONS

BAN negotiations in New York: Necessary step toward nuclear weapons elimination

Arielle Denis

While we can hear the worrying sounds of a new nuclear arms race with the “modernization” of all existing nuclear arsenals, the negotiations over a treaty banning nuclear weapons opening in New York in March, offer a unique opportunity to build the necessary leverage to open a road toward their elimination.

Since 2010, a new discourse on nuclear weapons, the so-called “humanitarian initiative” focusing on the catastrophic impact of nuclear weapons, has built a momentum gathering a majority of States, international organizations and civil society organisations. Three international conferences on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons and many new studies, have demonstrated that “the risk of a nuclear weapon detonation is arguably greater today than it was at the height of the Cold War,” as said Norway’s Minister of Foreign Affairs Espen Barth Eide, and that no national or international organisation could address in an adequate manner the immediate humanitarian emergency or long-term consequences caused by a nuclear weapon detonation in a populated area.

This initiative has led to the adoption on October 27 by the UN General Assembly of a resolution introducing the necessity to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons. The first session will convene 27 to 31 March at the United Nations in New York and the negotiations will be chaired by Ambassador Elayne Whyte Gomez of Costa Rica. The humanitarian framing of the nuclear weapons debate has directed diplomatic attention to consider nuclear weapons on the same footing that other indiscriminate and inhumane weapons - biological and chemical weapons, cluster munitions and anti-personnel landmines. Experience has shown that unequivocal and comprehensive prohibition is a necessary step towards their elimination.

During the first session, states will outline their views on what the treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons should contain and how it will relate to humanitarian law and other instruments governing nuclear weapons and other kinds of indiscriminate weapons.

Civil society organisations as IPB will participate in the negotiations and should be present during the process of negotiations to make sure their voices are heard, as they have done in all other negotiations prohibiting inhumane weapons.

The content of the treaty

The treaty should include highlights on the risks of a nuclear detonation, should it be accidental or deliberate, the humanitarian consequences of a detonation and it should show how the rules of international humanitarian law need to be fully applied to nuclear weapons, such as the rule prohibiting attacks directed at civilians, the rule prohibiting indiscriminate attacks, the rule of proportionality, protection of the natural environment. It would build on existing norms and reinforce existing legal instruments, notably obligations under Article VI of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

For the core obligations, the treaty should prohibit the development, production, testing, acquisition, stockpiling, transfer, deployment and the use and threat of use of nuclear weapons. It should also prohibit assistance, financing, encouraging, and inducing prohibited acts. The treaty should provide an obligation for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons and a framework to achieve it. Even if it does not establish detailed provisions for elimination, state parties could agree to relevant measures and timelines as part of the implementation process, through protocols or other appropriate legal instruments.

It could include also positive obligations for states, such as ensuring the rights of victims and survivors of nuclear weapons activities and providing for international cooperation and assistance to meet the obligations of the instrument.

Nuclear weapons states participation

Overall, the ban treaty is a political process: it builds a momentum for a growing community of states, international organisations and civil society to stigmatize nuclear weapons, and show that their complete elimination is the only way to go. Nuclear weapons states and their allies may not participate in the negotiations in the first place, as some of them announced it.

One of the interesting aspect of the treaty motion, is that it is going to be very difficult for most states to hold this line: “I am committed to nuclear weapons elimination, but I am not in favour of their prohibition.” What? Let see how it works with heroine: I am in favour of the elimination of all heroine stocks but I don’t support its prohibition!?

A part from the fact that a nuclear ban treaty will reinforce all existing commitments, it will give civil society a good grip to promote their total elimination. The ball is on our side to build the best possible treaty and use it to destroy the most dangerous weapons ever conceived.

Beyond the Ban: People’s Power Essential for Nuclear Weapons Abolition

Joseph Gerson

The nuclear diplomacy and nuclear arms race trains are running on opposite tracks and in very different directions. This leaves us with some grounds for hope, but also with an increasing sense of urgency to prevent nuclear war and to transform the policies of the nuclear weapons states.

Inspired diplomacy by a number of non-nuclear weapons states – especially Norway, Mexico and Austria – led to the three International Conferences on the Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons. These conferences educated a rising generation of diplomats, returned the dominant international nuclear disarmament discourse from crackpot nuclear “realism” to the necessary focus on the apocalyptic dangers of nuclear weapons, and to the unprecedented United Nations General Assembly mandate for negotiations at the UN this month and in June to create a nuclear weapons ban/prohibition treaty to lead to the complete elimination of nuclear

weapons. Yet, forty-five years after the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty entered into force, the five signatory nuclear weapons states (US, UK France, Russia and China,) have not only refused to implement their Article VI obligation to enter into good faith negotiations for the complete elimination of their nuclear arsenals, but they are spending hundreds of billions of dollars on new omnicidal nuclear weapons and their delivery systems. Four nuclear powers – India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea – remain outside the NPT. In the wake of “America First” Donald Trump’s accession of power, there is increasing talk of a “European” and possibly even a German Bomb.

Meanwhile, for those who are paying attention – and for those who are not - we are approaching what could prove to be the 21st century equivalent of the Cuban Missile Crisis. North Korea, which already has the capacity to devastate South Korea and Japan, is developing the capacity to attack the United States with

nuclear weapons. And Donald Trump, who months ago had no idea what the nuclear triad is and was asking why we can't use our nuclear weapons, has tweeted that "it isn't going to happen," whatever that may mean.

How to respond to the opportunities and dangers? The only proven way is with powerful people's actions that demand committed diplomacy to prevent nuclear war and to finally and completely eliminate the world's nuclear arsenals.

Most, if not all, of nuclear powers – certainly including the United States – will boycott the March and June negotiations at the United Nations, leading some to question if the ban process will prove to be little more than a children's crusade into a diplomat blind alley.

Those of us who have been skeptics of the Ban process need to recognize that it will open the way for political and diplomatic processes that will encourage, if not guarantee, future progress in nuclear disarmament. The treaty will require ratification by the governments that sign it, which in turn will spur public debate and increase anti-nuclear consciousness. And, in states like Germany and The Netherlands, whose parliaments have formally called for a nuclear weapons free world while their governments have opposed the ban process, we may see at least some NATO-state legislatures voting to endorse the treaty, which will add pressure to the nuclear disarmament process.

There have been sharp and unnecessary debates over strategy and tactics within the international nuclear weapons abolition movement. Tarja Cronberg, of IPB and SIPRI, put it well when she reminded us that the ban process "is in no way in conflict with the NPT. It is... a step to implement the NPT as it adds momentum to the treaty's article VI requiring nuclear weapons states to disarm...Although the power is still with the nuclear weapons states, the NNWS have gained bargaining power."

The next step after the ban treaty, she argues, "should be a verifiable convention on nuclear weapons, setting clear timelines for nuclear disarmament [that would] operationalize the disarmament article VI of the NPT."* As Ban Ki-Moon told us time and again, governments on their own cannot and will not deliver us to the Promised Land of a nuclear weapons free world. The pressure of the non-nuclear weapons states is, of course, vital. Nevertheless, much of the responsibility for the failure to turn the nuclear powers toward abolition lies with our failure to build the broad and powerful people's movements that forced the end to the Cold War with the 1987 INF Treaty, won the Paris Climate Agreement, and every other significant national policy change. It will require a massive international people's power movement that will not take 'No!' for an answer.

That is the challenge before us. And it will take more than a single-issue nuclear disarmament movement to achieve it. Because our issues are – at root – integrated and mutually reinforcing, it means making common cause with movements for peace, democracy, justice and environmental sustainability. In unity we have power.

Here in the US, our struggle is three-fold: to build the movement that defends democracy, human and civil rights – all of which are threatened by the Trump regime; to prevent nuclear and other wars, and to build the consciousness and political power needed to win the beginning of the good faith negotiations to fulfil the NPT's promise. Campaigns to halt spending for the trillion dollar triad upgrade while essential social services are being slashed, support for the Markey-Lieu legislation to take Trump's lone and twitchy finger from the nuclear button, using every means available to educate about growing dangers of nuclear war and its human consequences, and building on the Ban/Prohibition process provide the handles to build the movement needed to overcome US nuclear imperialism and to open the way to the security of a nuclear weapons-free world.

* Tarja Cronberg. "The Challenges to the Ban Treaty", The European Leadership Network, January 10, 2017, http://www.europeanleadershipnetwork.org/the-challenges-to-the-ban-treaty_4364.html

Italy and the Ban Treaty

Lisa Clark

All those who are following developments on the Ban Treaty negotiations will have noticed that, after having (predictably) voted NO in First Committee in October, Italy changed her vote to YES in the General Assembly, together with Estonia and Albania. After initially taking credit for this change of heart (in Italy, two coalitions* had led a small campaign, writing to the Government asking them to change their mind based on the important role Italy has historically played in the approval of disarmament conventions), we gradually came to realize that what had actually happened was a mistake! Late in the evening on 23 December, with a number of resolutions to vote on, the Italian delegation pressed the wrong button...

Our campaign, called *Italia, Ripensaci!*, gained new momentum once the Ministry of Foreign Affairs admitted to Parliament that it had voted YES by mistake, and explained that it considered the Ban Treaty “a process which can be highly divisive”, whereas they preferred to carry on working, “constructively to promote or support initiatives leading to a gradual, realistic and concrete process of irreversible, transparent and verifiable disarmament.”

We decided to convince our Government (which in the meantime has changed) that, today, one might say that those who launched the Humanitarian Initiative are arguably those who wish to uphold and reinvigorate the original “constructive” spirit of the NPT and especially its Article VI. And that there is an important role to be played by Italy, if only she will take part in the Ban Treaty negotiations, ensuring that the two processes do not become, indeed, divisive: Italy can perhaps, we suggested, be a bridge-builder. The Italians have shown, time and again, how they are in favour of prohibiting nuclear weapons: several years ago there was even draft legislation, submitted to Parliament by a broad coalition of civil society organizations to declare Italy a nuclear-weapon free country.

But a rightwing parliamentary majority prevented the text from even being debated.

The Italians have shown, time and again, how they are in favour of prohibiting nuclear weapons: several years ago there was even draft legislation, submitted to Parliament by a broad coalition of civil society organizations to declare Italy a nuclear-weapon free country. But a rightwing parliamentary majority prevented the text from even being debated.

Our group (which has meanwhile expanded to include eminent experts on nuclear weapons) had a meeting in Parliament with some MPs on 15 March: we agreed to collaborate on drafting a motion also taking into account the resolution adopted in the Dutch Parliament, which is responsible for the Netherlands’ abstention on the L41 Resolution. Since Italy and the Netherlands have decided to share their seat on the Security Council, it was felt that a decision not to boycott the Ban Treaty negotiations could be another action the two countries could conduct jointly.

None of this will occur before 27 March, of course. However, there is now a reasonable chance that Italy and the Netherlands together may break the obstinate front of NATO countries and, pressed into this by their Parliaments, actually participate in the June-July session. As we reiterated in writing to Government, Italy has a lot to offer: we all remember her leadership in the worldwide Moratorium on the Death Penalty and in the campaigns to achieve a ban against Landmines and Cluster munitions. After all, when a country acts internationally in harmony with the positions supported by the vast majority of its population, a wonderful synergy develops and so much more can get done!

* Italian Disarmament Network and Senzatmica Committee

The UK and the Ban Treaty

Dave Webb

Britain's entire nuclear weapon system, Trident, consists of four submarines – one of which is on patrol at all times carrying up to 40 nuclear warheads on board. Each of these warheads is some eight times more powerful than the atomic bomb which was dropped on Hiroshima.

Although often called an “independent” system, Trident is politically and technically dependent on the United States. Most of the system relies on US technical support and the UK leases its Trident D5 missiles from the US - they are drawn from the same pool used by the US Navy. Although the Trident submarines are built in Britain, they are based on an original US design and have to regularly visit the US for maintenance. The UK warhead is also a copy of a US one, with some components directly bought from Washington.

Politically, it is inconceivable that a British Prime Minister would fire a nuclear missile without permission from the American President and since the 1960s Trident has been assigned to NATO - meaning it could be used against a country attacking, or threatening to attack, one of the alliance's member states. NATO also refuses to implement a no first use policy and so the UK has to as well.

Despite large scale popular opposition (including the 70,000 strong protest rally in London at the beginning of 2016) the UK parliament voted to replace the current Trident submarines last July. Therefore, the UK government is now due to build four new submarines – the Dreadnought class – to take their place and eventually replace the entire Trident system. This new nuclear weapons system will cost at least £205 billion and will mean Britain remains a nuclear-armed state, at huge public expense, for decades to come. However, recent reports that the UK government withheld information of a missile test failure off the coast of Florida just before the parliamentary vote, has been an embarrassment for the Prime Minister. The missile veered off in the wrong direction - towards the United States - and had to be destroyed.

A report obtained from the US shows that the Trident system has been troubled by navigational issues for some time - with £1.4 billion being spent on repairs and modifications. The Sunday Times newspaper published a section of the report that said: *“The Trident II missile is completing its 26th year of deployment and has reached its original design life goal. Like any other ageing weapon system, increased maintenance and repair will be required to sustain a safe, reliable and accurate strategic weapons system.”*

Trident is also facing a number of other technical challenges. Citing a ‘cyber resilience’ report from the US Department of Defence, former Labour Defence Secretary Des Browne recently pointed out that Trident could be rendered obsolete by cyber-attack. Experts have pointed out that no system can be made totally immune to cyber-attack and scathing comments have also been made about the computer systems. As Lord Browne points out, what would be the point of spending so much money on submarines which didn't work when you want them to, or do work when you don't want them to because someone has hacked them?

One of the major arguments in favour of submarines as a ‘platform’ for carrying nuclear weapons is that they are undetectable underwater. This may once have been the case, but it is difficult to imagine now that a massive metal submarine can remain undetected for long. New technologies such as swarms of underwater drone and satellite surveillance techniques now make detection almost a certainty.

Nuclear weapons are also of no help in combating major threats to national security. The government's 2015 National Security Strategy has identified the most urgent (tier one) threats as: climate change, terrorism, pandemics, cyber-attacks and resource shortages. Threats from nuclear weapons are firmly down as a level two threat. There are also serious humanitarian reasons for banning nuclear weapons. Historical experience from the use and testing of nuclear weapons has demonstrated their devastating

immediate and long-term effects. No political circumstances can justify their use. Studies have shown that nuclear war would result in mass starvation due to the impact on agricultural production and profound climate change. As Scientists for Global Responsibility pointed out in 2013: *“the firepower of just one Trident nuclear submarine could not only devastate 48 cities and cause tens of millions of direct casualties, but also cause a global cooling lasting several years and of a magnitude not seen since the last Ice Age.”*

The conferences held in Oslo and Nayarit to discuss these humanitarian effects and the way forward were followed by the Vienna Conference in 2014. 155 states attended, including for the first time the US and the UK. The conference concluded with the hosts delivering a historic pledge to “stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons in light of their unacceptable humanitarian consequences and other associated risks” and to “identify and pursue effective measures to fill the legal gap for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons.” This led to the adoption of the Pledge, in the form of Resolution 70/48, by the United Nations General Assembly on 7 December 2015. Of the 168 nations that cast a vote there, 139 (83%) were in favour. The UK voted against.

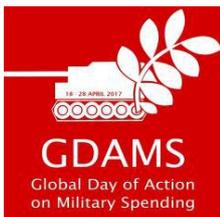
This resolution in turn led to the establishment of a special UN working group, which published a final report in August 2016 recommending that a conference be held in 2017 to negotiate a global ban on nuclear weapons. The nuclear nations and their proxies tried to stop this outcome but failed, as over a hundred countries voted in favour of the final report. In October 2016, states voted on a resolution along the same lines at the UN General Assembly. 123 countries voted in favour, with only 38 voting against. Those opposed included the UK, the USA, France, Israel and Russia. North Korea voted in favour of the ban conference. The other nuclear states (India, Pakistan and China) abstained. As a consequence of this vote two negotiating conferences will be held over 20 days at the UN in New York to conclude a new international treaty that would prohibit nuclear weapons. International law, morality and the will of the vast majority of people are already in favour of abolishing nuclear

weapons, but the UK and other nuclear states ignore all this. This leaves the big question of what difference would a ban treaty make? These states look likely to refuse to participate in any conference, even though they endlessly talk about being committed to a multilateral process. In addition, quite a few non-nuclear states are willing to act as their proxies, disingenuously arguing that the current framework for negotiating disarmament is sufficient.

In order to get the nuclear weapons states to engage and comply with the global ban conference, given their track record of ignoring such moves in the past, CND believes it is important that we (and our allies) get Britain to the negotiating table in New York. CND, and thousands of our supporters, have already written to Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson calling on the government to be fully supportive of the ban conference and play a full part when negotiations commence. And now we'll be building on this campaign to make sure the UK is represented at the talks.

The Parliamentary CND group of MPs will be writing to political parties encouraging them to send representatives to the negotiations and to the Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee asking for evidence sessions on the issue. Fabian Hamilton MP, the Labour Party “Shadow Minister for Peace and Disarmament” (although he has no-one in the government to shadow currently) will be attending the meeting in New York in March. CND is organising a side event with him as a main speaker. The Labour Party in Britain is currently struggling to maintain its current policy of retaining nuclear weapons. The leadership is in favour of scrapping Trident but appears to be uneasy in discussing this because of the problems this causes with many of its MPs. It is therefore extremely important that Fabian Hamilton sees a strong national and international support for nuclear disarmament, news of which he can take back to his Party.

The UK government continues to state its commitment to multilateral nuclear disarmament and therefore should fully engage in this initiative which aims to achieve that goal. We will continue to insist strongly that they must rethink their approach to the Ban Treaty and support and participate in the UN conference.



GCOMS Statement on the occasion of the 2017 Global Days of Action on Military Spending 18-28 April

All over the world governments are pushing for an increase in military spending. In the U.S., Donald Trump has proposed an increase of \$54 billion – 10% of the annual allocation, to be paid for by cutting diplomacy and foreign aid. All European governments in NATO agreed twice in Wales and Warsaw to spend 2% of their GDP on defense while in parallel creating new funding systems for military research and development. For its part, China has declared it will increase its military budget by 7% in 2017. Among other top military spending countries, Saudi Arabia and Japan are also planning to increase their military expenditure. Moreover, Trump and the U.S. administration are pushing in this direction, although this is not a new phenomenon.

With this scenario there are plenty of new reasons to renew our call for a cut on military spending ([based upon SIPRI data](#)) and to get close to the human security approach that many would prefer to see.

The Global Campaign on Military Spending (GCOMS) is an international campaign founded in December 2014 and promoted by the [International Peace Bureau](#). The aim of the campaign is to push governments to invest money in the sectors of health, education, employment and climate change rather than military. The GCOMS also incorporates the Global Day of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS), which is now in its 7th year.

When Donald Trump says "we have to start winning wars again", the Global Campaign for Military Spending declare that we must start building peace again. It is urgent that we build human security structures worldwide and at the same time put a stop to war and destruction. Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya are examples of wars that have destroyed countries and their people. What is happening in Yemen and Syria in under our eyes every day and sooner or later someone will ask "what did you do?" The vast majority of humankind desires a peaceful life. War investments boost the revenue of arms companies, but do nothing to ensure decent jobs, good health care and education. Drastically reducing military budgets in all countries will have a two-fold effect. It will reduce the level of militarisation and violence against civilians; and if the money saved is reallocated intelligently, resources can be found for peacebuilding mechanisms, for protecting Human Rights and tackling climate change.

Moreover, this year could be the most deadly in three decades in terms of famine victims. 20 million people are at risk in Yemen, Somalia, South Sudan, and Nigeria. Five years after a famine that claimed a quarter-of-a-million lives, Somalia is back on the brink of catastrophe with 6 million people in need of assistance. Tens of thousands of people in other parts of the world, like in Sri-Lanka, are in need of immediate life-saving support and food assistance. As an international community we are failing to respond to the deadly threats posed by famine. The UN estimates that 5.6 billion dollars are needed to address the famine crisis. It's time for major government donors to revise their priorities and redirect money from military to human needs.

According to Oxfam's recent report on "*An Economy for the 1%*", the 62 richest people in the world have accumulated as much wealth as the 3.6 billion poorest people, and, during the last five years, the "wealth" of this poorer half of the world has been reduced by 41%. What we see is a predatory system of greed and power, a system that exploits the natural resources and energy of most of the world, and for this the military is the primary tool. For this reason, military spending must be reduced if we want

to ensure a fair distribution of natural resources and an effective world decolonization. Since years, as GCOMS, we propose a cut of the 10% of military spending and according with the figures gives by SIPRI this would be enough at least to achieve major individual goals, such as eliminating extreme poverty and hunger.

Refugees and other forced movements of the civilian population are one of the direct consequences of war, inequality and violence. The refugee crisis is being militarized all over the world. Instead of building walls, militarizing borders, ignoring human rights, the main “peace weapons” that we should offer are tolerance, cooperation, global justice and integration. Instead of a military budget, we need a global social budget to address the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals. Instead of the arms business and the militarization of borders, we should respond to the present humanitarian crisis with a real budget to secure and promote human rights.

We need to involve even more citizens and organisations in an open and robust debate on the counter-productive results of military expenditure. More than ever, we need new partners to work on the ongoing Global Campaign on Military Spending (GCOMS), and to make the Global Days of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS) a great success!

For more information visit: <http://demilitarize.org>

Barcelona, 20 March 2017

Call for Support to and Participation in the 2017 World Conference against A and H Bombs:

For a Nuclear Weapon-Free, Peaceful and Just World - Let's Join Hands to Achieve a Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons

The 79th General Meeting, Organizing Committee of the World Conference against A & H Bombs

February 10, 2017

Dear Friends,

The 72nd summer since the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki is approaching and we are facing a historic opportunity to achieve the earnest desire of the Hibakusha to create a world set free of nuclear weapons in their lifetime. The conference to negotiate a treaty to ban nuclear weapons, consistently called for by the Hibakusha, is set to be convened in March and June this year at the United Nations.

Sharing the aspirations of the Hibakusha, we will convene the 2017 World Conference against A and H Bombs in the two A-bombed cities, with the theme: "For a Nuclear Weapon-Free, Peaceful and Just World - Let's Join Hands to Achieve a Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons." We send out our sincere call on all of you for your support to and participation in the forthcoming World Conference.

Friends,

Together with the initiatives and leadership of national governments, international agencies and local municipalities, the voices and actions of the people of the world, including the Hibakusha, have contributed to the start of the treaty negotiations by raising awareness of the inhumanity of nuclear weapons through their testimonies and A-bomb exhibitions of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We must make this year's World Conference successful by making known the damage and aftereffects of the atomic bombing throughout the world and creating a groundswell of people's voices and actions calling for a total ban and the elimination of nuclear weapons.

The "International Signature Campaign in Support of the Appeal of the Hibakusha for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons (International Hibakusha Appeal Signature Campaign)" launched in April 2016 has drawn a broad range of support both internationally and inside Japan, giving rise to the creation of joint campaign setups of various organizations in many parts of Japan beyond their differences. Towards the U.N. negotiation conference sessions and the World Conference, let us achieve a dramatic development in the signature collection campaign.

Friends,

We cannot condone the attempts to cling to nuclear weapons and ignore the rules of international community such as peace, human rights and democracy.

Last year, the U.S. put pressure on the NATO member states and other allies to vote against the U.N. resolution calling for a start of negotiations of a treaty to ban nuclear weapons. The government of Japan, the only A-bombed nation, gave in to this pressure and voted against the resolution. Upholding the “Japan-U.S. Alliance-First” policy, Prime Minister Abe met President Trump and adamantly holds on to the reliance on the U.S. “nuclear umbrella.”

However, these nuclear weapon states and their allies are an absolute minority in the international community. We call on the U.S. and other nuclear-armed states to stop consolidating their nuclear arsenals and take responsible actions for banning and eliminating nuclear weapons, as agreed in the international community since the founding of the U.N. As the movement of the A-bombed Japan, we urge the Japanese government to join the treaty negotiation conference and commit to the conclusion of the treaty, and to carry out peaceful diplomacy based on the peace constitution, borne out of the painful experiences of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Friends,

Achieving a world without nuclear weapons needs not only joint effort of national governments and civil society for the conclusion of the treaty but also cooperation of people all over the world who are taking actions for a peaceful and better world. We stand for and work in solidarity with the movements demanding the removal of U.S. bases in Okinawa for U.S. nuclear attacks; the abrogation of the unconstitutional War Laws; the cancellation of the reinforcement of U.S. bases, including the deployment of Ospreys all over Japan; the redress and eradication of poverty and social gaps; achievement of ZERO nuclear power plants and support for sufferers of the TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant accident. We work together with many citizens in nuclear-armed states and their allies who are standing up against xenophobia and increasing poverty and for social justice. Let us achieve a great success of the 2017 World Conference as a forum for joint undertaking of all these movements.

Friends,

We invite you to start and join the efforts to disseminate the facts about the atomic bombings and promote the “International Hibakusha Appeal Signature Campaign” towards the forthcoming negotiation conference sessions in March and June-July, and bring about the achievements and experiences of the campaigns to the World Conference to be convened in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August. Let us set about making effort to organize participants in the World Conference in your local communities, workplaces and school campuses for achieving a historic success of the World Conference.

Provisional schedule of the 2017 World Conference against A and H Bombs

August 3 (Thurs) – 5 (Sat): International Meeting (Hiroshima)

Aug. 5(Sat): Exchange Forum for Citizens and Overseas Delegates

Aug. 6(Sun): Hiroshima Day Rally

Aug. 7 (Mon): Move from Hiroshima to Nagasaki

Opening Plenary, World Conference - Nagasaki

Aug. 8(Tues): International Forum / Workshops

Aug. 9(Wed): Closing Plenary, World Conference - Nagasaki

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